

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 7-15, 17 and 27-31 are pending in this application.

Second Request to Acknowledge Applicant's Claim for Foreign Priority and

Receipt of Applicant's Priority Document:

The present application is a national phase filing of international application no. PCT/GB99/01866 designating the U.S. and claiming priority from application no. (EP) 98304920.6. The Notification of Acceptance of Application Under 35 U.S.C. §371 and 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 (Form PCT/DO/EO/903) mailed January 9, 2001 expressly acknowledges receipt of the priority document. In light of this earlier acknowledgement that the priority document was properly received by the USPTO via WIPO and the PCT process, the Examiner is respectfully requested to review the application and to acknowledge Applicant's priority claim under 35 U.S.C. §119 and confirm that in fact Applicant's priority document has been properly received.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Davies et al (U.S. '907, hereinafter "Davies")¹ Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection with respect to still pending claims 7-15 and 17.

For a reference to anticipate a claim, each element must be found, either expressly or under principles of inherency, in the reference. Applicant submits that Davies fails to disclose each element of the claimed invention. For example, Davies

¹ Applicant notes that the assignee listed on the front page of Davies is British Telecommunications public limited company, which is also the recorded assignee of the present application.

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fails to disclose a first searching agent for searching a first advertising board for services of information brokers based on a user request, a second searching agent for searching a second advertising board for available services of information content suppliers based on the search results of the first advertising board and the user request, providing the results of the search of the second advertising board to the first advertising board, and transferring the results from the first advertising board to the user interface through the first searching agent, as required by independent claim 7 and its dependents.

Through the above claimed features, the user does not directly deal with an information content supplier. Rather, the customer only deals directly with an intermediary so that a first agent searches an advertising board of information brokers, and a second agent in turn searches another advertising board for information content suppliers. This ensures that the direct relationship is between the user and the intermediary, and not the user and the information content supplier. The search of the second advertising board for available services of information content suppliers is performed based on the results of the search of the first advertising board of information brokers.

Page 5, lines 20-25 apparently alleges that Davies's disclosure of an intelligent page store (IPS) 100 teaches the claimed information broker. Applicant respectfully disagrees. IPS 100 is not an advertising board advertising services of information brokers. It is the user that has placed a specific document in the IPS. For example, col. 4, lines 24-26 of Davies states "The user 110 first finds a W3 page of sufficient

interest to be stored by the Jasper system in an IPS 100 associated with that user (STEP 501) (emphasis added).” Jasper agent 105 thus parses a page selected and supplied by the user. Jasper agent 105 does not search an advertising board advertising the services of information brokers.

Moreover, even assuming *arguendo* that the IPS 100 is an information broker, what would further teach a second searching agent for searching a second advertising board for available services of information content suppliers based on the results of the search of the first advertising board for services of information brokers and the request from the user? In a retrieval process, IPS 100 merely provides information to Jasper agent 105 so that Jasper agent 105 can dynamically construct HTML form 305 with a ranked list of links to the pages retrieved and their respective summaries. (See col. 5, lines 44-60). Another search is not performed by a second searching agent based on the results of the search of IPS 100.

Page 6, lines 4-13 of the Office Action states, *inter alia*, “the first agent is defined as the Jasper agent....” Even assuming *arguendo* that this is true, what then would disclose the claimed second agent? In Davies, a single Jasper agent retrieves information from the IPS 100.

Independent claim 17 requires, *inter alia*, “wherein the second searching agent identifies a suitable broker based on the request from the user, and the first searching agent is associated with that identified broker so that the first searching agent searches the content service provider advertising board for services based on the identified broker as well as the request from the user.” Davies fails to disclose this limitation.

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Even assuming *arguendo* that the IPS 100 is an information broker as alleged by the Office Action, there is no further teaching or suggestion of searching a content server provider advertising board based on a search of the IPS 100.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that still pending claims 6-15 and 17 are not anticipated by Davies and respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn.

New Claims:

New claims 27-31 have been added to provide additional protection for the invention. New dependent claims 27-29 are allowable for at least the reasons for their respective base claims. New claim 30 requires, *inter alia*, “wherein the at least one selected service agent selects at least one information content provider from the customer supplier agent board, and the at least one selected information content provider provides information based on the received user request to the at least one selected service agent which in turn provides the information to the customer agent.” New claim 31 requires, *inter alia*, “wherein the results of the search of the second advertising board are provided from the second searching agent to the first searching agent, and then transferred from the first searching agent to the user interface.”

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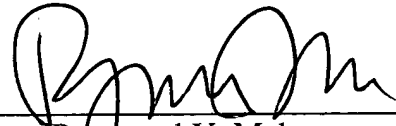
Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____



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